

Jim was born in Ocala, Florida and raised by his parents, Maxine and Earnest, along with his brother, Earnest Jr. He attended Ocala High School and upon graduating in 1962, went to the Gordon Military Academy before enrolling at the University of Florida (UF) on a ROTC scholarship in 1964. While at UF, Jim met his beloved wife, Velva Wells, and they married in 1965. The following year, Jim graduated from UF and commenced his military service in the U.S. Army 5th Special Forces Group (Green Beret), 101st Airborne. Having served in the Vietnam War, Jim led a Special Forces A-Team and played a pivotal role in various combat operations with the U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam—Studies and Observations Group (MACV—SOC). In honor of his incredible service, Jim was awarded multiple combat medals and ribbons. Following his assignment in Vietnam, Jim moved to Fort Bragg, North Carolina with Velva and their daughter, Kimberly.

Jim's move to Tampa came in 1970 when he enrolled at the Stetson College of Law, all while continuing his service with the Army Reserves at MacDill Air Force Base. That same year, Jim and Velva welcomed their son, Dan.

Upon his graduation with honors in 1972, Jim commenced his legal career with the law firm of Peavyhouse, Giglio, Grant, Opp, Clark & Charlton, later known as "Clark & Martino." His son, Dan, later joined Jim at the firm in 1999. Jim was known to bring professionalism, kindness and even his own famous sayings to the firm. Some of his favorite sayings to share as he would head from the office to the courthouse were "Always stand 5 feet away from a qualified Army Ranger," "Nobody ever got fired for being early," and "Get the work done before you sit on your butt."

Having obtained Board Certification in Civil Trial from The Florida Bar, Jim worked as a leading preeminent trial lawyer for over 50 years. He held various memberships including those with The National Board of Trial Advocates and the American Board of Trial Advocates. Over the course of his career, Jim received numerous awards including the Hillsborough County Bar Association's "Michael A. Fogarty Memorial 'In the Trenches' Award," and the "Herbert G. Goldberg Award," the bar association's highest award given to a trial attorney.

A loving husband, father and grandfather, Jim was endlessly devoted to his family. He is survived by his cherished wife of 57 years, Velva, his daughter, Kimberly Yarbrough and her husband, Ted; his son, Dan and his wife, Sandra; and his grandchildren, Clark Yarbrough, Kirk Daniel Yarbrough, Claudette Yarbrough, Reid Clark, Justin Clark and Wells Clark.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of my neighbors in Tampa Bay and the citizens of Florida, I am proud to honor Jim Clark for his lifetime of service. From his courageous military service to his decades as a trial lawyer, Jim was a hardworking, generous and devoted individual. He was loved and respected by his family, his colleagues and all who knew him. May his soul rest in peace and his legacy live on and inspire others in our community for years to come.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF GEORGE GOULD

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, today I honor and recognize the life and legacy of George Gould. Born in Buffalo in 1935, George was a graduate of Bishop Timon High School, where he was a standout athlete. He attended St. Bonaventure University, where he played basketball, and Stetson University in DeLand, Florida, where he played baseball. He went on to serve two years in the U.S. Marine Corps, from 1957 to 1959, at Camp LeJeune, S.C., where he was a member of the football and baseball teams.

Raised in the Old First Ward on Mackinaw Street, George Gould and his wife Kathryn later moved to the close-knit South Buffalo community to raise their family. Alongside his friend John Scanlon, George was one of the founding members of the Old First Ward South Buffalo Democratic Club and was honored as the influential political organization's Man of the Year.

George Gould was a scooper with the International Longshoremen's Association from 1960 to 1985 and served as a firefighter with the Buffalo Fire Department from 1963 to 1985. Mayor Griffin appointed Mr. Gould Director of Auditorium and Stadium Operations at War Memorial Stadium, Buffalo Memorial Auditorium, and Pilot Field. He held that position from 1981 to 1994.

To those who knew George best, his wife, Kathryn, his children, Kevin, G. Patrick, Brian, Elizabeth, Sheila, and Kerry Gould and his seven grandchildren, extended family members and to his many friends, George was known as a mentor and a true friend. George's dedication and service to the City of Buffalo and his support for the neighborhood will never be forgotten. Therefore, I am honored to recognize his legacy today.

RECOGNIZING BISHOP GUILFOYLE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate my alma mater, Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School, as they celebrate 100 years, of educating students in Blair County.

Founded in 1922 as the "Altoona Catholic High School", the freshman class was composed of 87 pupils who would graduate in 1926.

Founded on the principals of goodness, discipline, and knowledge, Bishop Guilfoyle has become a thriving institution, a proven record of educational success and dedication to the faith.

On behalf of the people of Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I congratulate Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School on this milestone and wish them ever continued success.

RECOGNIZING MICHAEL O'NEILL UPON HIS DEPARTURE FROM THE PACIFICA CITY COUNCIL

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Mike O'Neill as he departs from the Pacifica City Council after ten years of dedicated and outstanding service. Before joining the council in 2012, Mike served on the Pacifica School District Board of Trustees for 14 years and on the Pacifica Planning Commission for six years. Mike's dedication to public service and his joviality will undoubtedly be missed by his colleagues and the public.

It takes a special kind of individual to spend hours studying for, and being in, meetings to resolve thorny issues such as housing, transportation congestion, airport noise, disaster preparedness and education. Mike is one of those special kind of individuals. During his tenure on the council, he served on the Airport Community Roundtable, the Joint School District/Water District/City Articulation Committee, the Pacific Coast Television Board, the Peninsula Congestion Relief Alliance, the San Mateo County Library JPA, the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO), and the City/County Association of Governments (C/CAG).

It's been my pleasure and honor to work with Mike and his fellow councilmembers on many issues. Mike is always looking for solutions and ways to collaborate and compromise. He has participated in several union contract negotiations and set spending priorities and managed budgets for his coastal hometown of 40,000 residents.

Pacifica spreads along six miles of the Pacific Ocean. It's world famous as a surfing destination and offers spectacular open spaces for hiking. When you hike to the top of Sweeney Ridge you can take in an awe-inspiring view of the Pacific Ocean, Crystal Springs Reservoir and San Francisco Bay. From the bluffs of Mori Point and Pedro Point Headlands you can watch humpback whales frolicking in the water. Pacifica is a paradise for outdoor enthusiasts. However, the power of the ocean has also created challenges for the city. The pounding surf, coastal erosion and sea level rise have undermined and destroyed infrastructure. Mike, along with the council and city staff, have worked closely with my office to find funding to secure the seawall at Beach Boulevard and Esplanade Boulevard where buildings were literally crumbling into the ocean and had to be demolished.

During the COVID pandemic lockdown, the beaches in Pacifica were a magnet for people from all over the Bay Area. So many people were flocking to the coast that the city had to restrict access. Those were difficult decisions during difficult times, but Mike and his colleagues were doing their best to keep people safe.

Schools are front and center in Mike's life. In his day job, he works for the Jefferson Union High School District in Daly City. For 14 years, he drove a school bus. If you have any doubt that Mike understands what teenagers are thinking about, think again. He just recently moved to Adult Education as a transition navigator in which capacity he helps adults with resumes, life skills and job

searches. He also served for 14 years on the Pacifica School District board where he focused on delivering the best possible education and learning environment for the students and teachers. His last vote on the school board was a vote to "surplus" the Oddstad school property so that it could be utilized better in the future. Seven years ago, plans to convert the property into workforce housing began. Mike was already on the city council and he pushed hard to get the plan approved. However, technical delays have been postponing the vote which is now expected in late January or February of 2022. While Mike will miss the vote by just about a month, Pacifica will not forget his leadership on the project. He was also instrumental in the creation of 122 workforce housing units for the Jefferson Union High School District.

Mike was born in San Francisco. He received his AA in Criminology from City College of San Francisco and his BA in Recreation from San Francisco State University. He has worked as a savings and loan branch manager, investment manager, and realtor in addition to his jobs at the Jefferson Union High School District.

Mike and his wife Liz live in Pacifica with their middle daughter Siobhan. Their son Sean and daughter Alana have moved out and are building their own families. In his free time, Mike likes to barbecue and smoke meats, study history and play trivia.

Madam Speaker, I ask the members of the House of Representatives to join me in honoring Mike O'Neill for his three decades of public service, ten of them on the city council. While he is leaving the dais, his fingerprints will remain on many Pacifica institutions. We thank him for his contributions and hope that we will still see him as Santa Claus during the annual tree lighting ceremony sharing a jovial ho, ho, ho.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

Mrs. HARTZLER. Madam Speaker, I missed the vote on the Senate Amendment to H.R. 3462 due to a meeting. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 506.

HONORING PATRICIA GIVENS UPON HER RETIREMENT

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today in admiration to honor Patricia A. Givens' incredible life of public service and to congratulate her on her retirement. Patricia's remarkable contributions to our hometown of Tampa have had a tremendous impact on our neighbors and citizens of Florida and is worthy of recognition.

Patricia was born in Tampa, Fla., at MacDill Air Force Base, where her father served. She graduated from Jefferson High School and later attended Hillsborough Community Col-

lege and Nova Southeastern University, where she earned both bachelor's and master's degrees in business administration. She serves as the President for the Carver City Lincoln Gardens Civic Homeowners Association Inc. and is an active volunteer with her church, Revealing Truth Ministries.

After her tenure with a private company, Patricia's public service started in 2010 in the district offices of Florida Representative Betty Reed and Florida Representative Ed Narain. She then joined my district team in 2016 as office manager. Patricia has since been the foundation of my office, applying her organizational and administrative skills to ensure efficient operations so constituents are served with the highest level of professionalism, tracking each constituent interaction with attentiveness and accuracy. She is driven by her compassion and taps into her wealth of knowledge for local resources to help each constituent with understanding and kindness, and coordinates assistance right away.

As intern coordinator, Patricia has gone above and beyond to provide a beneficial as well as rewarding experience for interns. Because of this and her supportive nature, she has impacted the lives of students in a major way. Each semester, she has brought on a team of impressive interns who have flourished academically and professionally, returning years later to thank our office for their pivotal internship experience. Additionally, Patricia is credited with facilitating rehabilitation to our district office and ensuring our staff have the necessary resources they require to be successful each day at work.

Patricia has been an integral part of my team. However, I am sure she will continue extending her generosity as wife, mother, grandmother, neighborhood advocate, church member and traveler. Patricia is married to her husband Gary and has three children, and they are blessed with multiple grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, Patricia embodies what it is to be a public servant and citizen. She has paved the way for generations to come, always giving her very best, leading by example, and always working to make lives better for those she serves. On behalf of the citizens of Florida and my neighbors across Tampa Bay, I am proud to honor Patricia A. Givens for her formidable efforts and selfless devotion to our community and congratulate on her well-deserved retirement.

REINTRODUCING THE EMERGING BUSINESS ENCOURAGEMENT ACT OF 2022

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

Mr. CARSON. Madam Speaker, today I am reintroducing the Emerging Business Encouragement Act which will give new small businesses a more equal playing field to secure federal contracts.

Emerging businesses face obstacles that are distinctly different from more well-established small businesses. Under the Emerging Business Act, the Small Business Administration would create a new designation for an Emerging Business Enterprises based on the company's age, size and total compensation.

This will encourage meaningful opportunities among like-sized enterprises compared to competition against larger, fully-established enterprises.

Emerging businesses often have trouble securing federal contracts. The Emerging Business Encouragement Act will expand opportunities by requiring federal agencies to set contracting goals for emerging business enterprises equal to or not less than 3 percent of contracts and subcontracts.

Additionally, many emerging businesses have difficulty accessing the capital they need to develop products and hire workers. Under the Emerging Business Encouragement Act, the percentage of federal loan guaranty authority for Small Business Administration loans would increase from 50 percent for all small businesses to 65 percent for emerging business enterprise, providing a significant incentive for lenders to lend to these businesses.

We must support all job creators as our economy continues to recover, but there are significant differences between a startup with only a few employees and an established business with a few hundred employees and decades of experience. This legislation will help these emerging businesses overcome the unique challenges they face in their first few years of operation, and it will ensure these businesses are able to compete for federal contracts and gain access to critical small business loans.

To be certified as an emerging business enterprise, a company must be 10 percent or less the size of the current SBA designation for a small business, which is typically capped at 500 employees. The company must be less than 5 years old at the time of certification with annual compensation of individuals in management positions not exceeding 200 percent of the annual mean wage for "Management Occupations" defined by the U.S. Department of Labor. These standards will ensure that those businesses benefiting from EBE programs are truly emerging.

With this bill, we can help entrepreneurs get through their first few years, when so many businesses fail, so they can grow and create jobs. And it provides incentives for lenders to provide capital to emerging businesses, one of the top concerns for entrepreneurs.

Madam Speaker. I invite my colleagues to join me in supporting this important bill.

CELEBRATING THE 30TH CONGRES- SIONAL DISTRICT OF TEXAS AS THE "DISTRICT OF CHAMPIONS"

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate 30 schools in my Congressional District for their display of excellence this past weekend at the University Interscholastic League Texas High School Football State Championships in Arlington.

This past Friday, South Oak Cliff High School, part of the Dallas Independent School District, became the first DISD school to repeat as state champions by winning their thirteenth straight game, defeating Port Neches-Groves High School by a score of 34 to 24 to win the UIL Class 5A Division 2 title.